Claims

WE CLAIM:

1.   A method comprising:
     receiving a patient prescription for a specified medication;
     verifying availability of insurance coverage from an insurance company for the patient prescription;
     verifying an insurance payment category for the prescription;
     collecting a payment from the patient based on the payment category; and
     transmitting the payment category and the payment to the insurance company excluding the medication information.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the payment category is selected from brand name, generic, and not covered.

3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising dispensing the prescription to the patient.

4.   The method of claim 1 further comprising collecting patient preexisting prescription information and patient insurance information from a storage medium.

5.   The method of claim 4 further comprising recording the prescription and the payment on the storage medium.

6.   The method of claim 1 further comprising checking for adverse reactions between the patient prescription and at least one preexisting patient prescription.

7.   A method comprising:

   storing patient prescription information on a storage medium;

   providing unlimited access to the prescription information to the patient; and

   providing limited access to the prescription information to third parties in response to authorization by the patient.

8.   A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, for managing patient prescription information the computer program product comprising:

   instructions for receiving a patient prescription for a specified medication;

   instructions for verifying availability of insurance coverage from an insurance company for the patient prescription;

   instructions for verifying an insurance payment category for the prescription;

   instructions for collecting a payment from the patient based on the payment category; and

   instructions for transmitting the payment category and the payment to the insurance company exclusive of the medication information.

9.   The product of claim 8 wherein the payment category is selected from brand name, generic, and not covered.

10.   The product of claim 8 further comprising instructions for dispensing the prescription to the patient.

11.   The product of claim 8 further comprising instructions for collecting patient preexisting prescription information and patient insurance information from a storage medium.

12. The product of claim 11 further comprising instructions for recording the prescription and the payment on the storage medium.

13. The product of claim 8 further comprising instructions for checking for adverse reactions between the patient prescription and at least one preexisting patient prescription.

14. System for managing patient prescription information system comprising:

     receiving means for receiving a patient prescription for a specified medication;

     first verifying means for verifying availability of insurance coverage from an insurance company for the patient prescription;

     second verifying means for verifying an insurance payment category for the prescription;

     collecting means for collecting a payment from the patient based on the payment category; and

     transmitting means for transmitting the payment category and the payment to the insurance company exclusive of the medication information.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the payment category is selected from brand name, generic, and not covered.

16. The system of claim 14 further comprising dispensing means for dispensing the prescription to the patient.

17. The system of claim 14 further comprising collecting means for collecting patient preexisting prescription information and patient insurance information from a storage medium.

18.   The system of claim further comprising recording means for recording the prescription and the payment on the storage medium.

19.   The product of claim 18 further comprising checking means for checking for adverse reactions between the patient prescription and at least one preexisting patient prescription.